

1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to school choice; amending s. 1002.31,  
3       F.S.; requiring district school boards to include a  
4       specific report in their process for controlled open  
5       enrollment; revising specified district school board  
6       reporting requirements to include information relating  
7       to school choice; amending s. 1002.33, F.S.; revising  
8       the contents of an annual report charter school  
9       sponsors must provide to the Department of Education;  
10      revising the date by which the department must post a  
11      specified annual report; deleting obsolete provisions;  
12      amending s. 1002.333, F.S.; revising definitions;  
13      defining the term "Florida Opportunity Zone;"  
14      authorizing a hope operator to operate a school of  
15      hope in a school district located in a Florida  
16      Opportunity Zone; conforming provisions to changes  
17      made by the act; revising the approved uses of Schools  
18      of Hope Program funds by a hope operator; revising the  
19      amount of an award a traditional public school may  
20      receive through the Schools of Hope Program under  
21      certain circumstances; providing requirements for such  
22      awards; revising the number of traditional public  
23      school that will receive an award through the Schools  
24      of Hope Program; providing criteria for the selection  
25      of traditional public schools who receive awards;

26        amending s. 1002.40, F.S.; revising the requirements  
27        for the termination of a Hope Scholarship upon  
28        enrollment in a public school; deleting a requirement  
29        that the department contract with an independent  
30        entity for an annual evaluation of the Hope  
31        Scholarship Program; amending s. 1002.421, F.S.;  
32        deleting an exemption from certain background  
33        screenings for employees and personnel holding a valid  
34        Florida teaching certificate; conforming cross-  
35        references; creating s. 1004.6499, F.S.; providing the  
36        purpose of the Center for Community Schools within the  
37        University of Central Florida relating to community  
38        school models; providing definitions; providing  
39        requirements for a community organization; providing  
40        requirements for a community school model; authorizing  
41        the Center for Community Schools to award grants to  
42        community organizations to establish its community  
43        school model; providing requirements for the award of  
44        such grants; requiring the Center for Community  
45        Schools to publish certain information on its website;  
46        providing an effective date.

47  
48        Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

49  
50        Section 1.    Subsection (4) of section 1002.31, Florida

Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (j) is added to subsection (3) of that section, to read:

1002.31 Controlled open enrollment; Public school parental choice.—

(3) Each district school board shall adopt by rule and post on its website the process required to participate in controlled open enrollment. The process must:

(j) Report the number of applications received and the percentage of applications granted per school year.

(4) In accordance with the reporting requirements of s. 1011.62, each district school board shall annually report the number of students applying for and exercising public school choice, by type, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Section 2. Paragraph (b) of subsection (5) and paragraph (b) of subsection (6) of section 1002.33, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.33 Charter schools.—

(5) SPONSOR; DUTIES.—

(b) Sponsor duties.—

1.a. The sponsor shall monitor and review the charter school in its progress toward the goals established in the charter.

b. The sponsor shall monitor the revenues and expenditures of the charter school and perform the duties provided in s.

76 | 1002.345.

77 |       c. The sponsor may approve a charter for a charter school  
78 | before the applicant has identified space, equipment, or  
79 | personnel, if the applicant indicates approval is necessary for  
80 | it to raise working funds.

81 |       d. The sponsor shall not apply its policies to a charter  
82 | school unless mutually agreed to by both the sponsor and the  
83 | charter school. If the sponsor subsequently amends any agreed-  
84 | upon sponsor policy, the version of the policy in effect at the  
85 | time of the execution of the charter, or any subsequent  
86 | modification thereof, shall remain in effect and the sponsor may  
87 | not hold the charter school responsible for any provision of a  
88 | newly revised policy until the revised policy is mutually agreed  
89 | upon.

90 |       e. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter is innovative  
91 | and consistent with the state education goals established by s.  
92 | 1000.03(5).

93 |       f. The sponsor shall ensure that the charter school  
94 | participates in the state's education accountability system. If  
95 | a charter school falls short of performance measures included in  
96 | the approved charter, the sponsor shall report such shortcomings  
97 | to the Department of Education.

98 |       g. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
99 | state law for personal injury, property damage, or death  
100 | resulting from an act or omission of an officer, employee,

101 agent, or governing body of the charter school.

102 h. The sponsor shall not be liable for civil damages under  
103 state law for any employment actions taken by an officer,  
104 employee, agent, or governing body of the charter school.

105 i. The sponsor's duties to monitor the charter school  
106 shall not constitute the basis for a private cause of action.

107 j. The sponsor shall not impose additional reporting  
108 requirements on a charter school without providing reasonable  
109 and specific justification in writing to the charter school.

110 k. The sponsor shall submit an annual report to the  
111 Department of Education in a web-based format to be determined  
112 by the department.

113 (I) The report shall include the following information:

114 ~~(A) The number of draft applications received on or before~~  
115 ~~May 1 and each applicant's contact information.~~

116 ~~(A)-(B)~~ The number of ~~final~~ applications received on or  
117 before February ~~August~~ 1 and each applicant's contact  
118 information.

119 ~~(B)-(C)~~ The date each application was approved, denied, or  
120 withdrawn.

121 ~~(C)-(D)~~ The date each final contract was executed.

122 (II) Annually, by November 1 ~~Beginning August 31, 2013,~~  
123 ~~and each year thereafter,~~ the sponsor shall submit to the  
124 department the information for the applications submitted the  
125 previous year.

126 (III) The department shall compile an annual report, by  
127 sponsor ~~district~~, and post the report on its website by January  
128 15 November ~~1~~ of each year.

129 2. Immunity for the sponsor of a charter school under  
130 subparagraph 1. applies only with respect to acts or omissions  
131 not under the sponsor's direct authority as described in this  
132 section.

133 3. This paragraph does not waive a sponsor's ~~district~~  
134 ~~school board's~~ sovereign immunity.

135 4. A Florida College System institution may work with the  
136 school district or school districts in its designated service  
137 area to develop charter schools that offer secondary education.  
138 These charter schools must include an option for students to  
139 receive an associate degree upon high school graduation. If a  
140 Florida College System institution operates an approved teacher  
141 preparation program under s. 1004.04 or s. 1004.85, the  
142 institution may operate no more than one charter school that  
143 serves students in kindergarten through grade 12. In  
144 kindergarten through grade 8, the charter school shall implement  
145 innovative blended learning instructional models in which, for a  
146 given course, a student learns in part through online delivery  
147 of content and instruction with some element of student control  
148 over time, place, path, or pace and in part at a supervised  
149 brick-and-mortar location away from home. A student in a blended  
150 learning course must be a full-time student of the charter

151 school and receive the online instruction in a classroom setting  
152 at the charter school. District school boards shall cooperate  
153 with and assist the Florida College System institution on the  
154 charter application. Florida College System institution  
155 applications for charter schools are not subject to the time  
156 deadlines outlined in subsection (6) and may be approved by the  
157 district school board at any time during the year. Florida  
158 College System institutions may not report FTE for any students  
159 who receive FTE funding through the Florida Education Finance  
160 Program.

161       5. A school district may enter into nonexclusive  
162 interlocal agreements with federal and state agencies, counties,  
163 municipalities, and other governmental entities that operate  
164 within the geographical borders of the school district to act on  
165 behalf of such governmental entities in the inspection,  
166 issuance, and other necessary activities for all necessary  
167 permits, licenses, and other permissions that a charter school  
168 needs in order for development, construction, or operation. A  
169 charter school may use, but may not be required to use, a school  
170 district for these services. The interlocal agreement must  
171 include, but need not be limited to, the identification of fees  
172 that charter schools will be charged for such services. The fees  
173 must consist of the governmental entity's fees plus a fee for  
174 the school district to recover no more than actual costs for  
175 providing such services. These services and fees are not

176 included within the services to be provided pursuant to  
177 subsection (20).

178 (6) APPLICATION PROCESS AND REVIEW.—Charter school  
179 applications are subject to the following requirements:

180 (b) A sponsor shall receive and review all applications  
181 for a charter school using the evaluation instrument developed  
182 by the Department of Education. ~~A sponsor shall receive and~~  
183 ~~consider charter school applications received on or before~~  
184 ~~August 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be opened~~  
185 ~~at the beginning of the school district's next school year, or~~  
186 ~~to be opened at a time agreed to by the applicant and the~~  
187 ~~sponsor. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school~~  
188 ~~application submitted before August 1 and may receive an~~  
189 ~~application submitted later than August 1 if it chooses.~~  
190 ~~Beginning in 2018 and thereafter,~~ A sponsor shall receive and  
191 consider charter school applications received on or before  
192 February 1 of each calendar year for charter schools to be  
193 opened 18 months later at the beginning of the school district's  
194 school year, or to be opened at a time determined by the  
195 applicant. A sponsor may not refuse to receive a charter school  
196 application submitted before February 1 and may receive an  
197 application submitted later than February 1 if it chooses. A  
198 sponsor may not charge an applicant for a charter any fee for  
199 the processing or consideration of an application, and a sponsor  
200 may not base its consideration or approval of a final



201 application upon the promise of future payment of any kind.  
202 Before approving or denying any application, the sponsor shall  
203 allow the applicant, upon receipt of written notification, at  
204 least 7 calendar days to make technical or nonsubstantive  
205 corrections and clarifications, including, but not limited to,  
206 corrections of grammatical, typographical, and like errors or  
207 missing signatures, if such errors are identified by the sponsor  
208 as cause to deny the final application.

209       1. In order to facilitate an accurate budget projection  
210 process, a sponsor shall be held harmless for FTE students who  
211 are not included in the FTE projection due to approval of  
212 charter school applications after the FTE projection deadline.  
213 In a further effort to facilitate an accurate budget projection,  
214 within 15 calendar days after receipt of a charter school  
215 application, a sponsor shall report to the Department of  
216 Education the name of the applicant entity, the proposed charter  
217 school location, and its projected FTE.

218       2. In order to ensure fiscal responsibility, an  
219 application for a charter school shall include a full accounting  
220 of expected assets, a projection of expected sources and amounts  
221 of income, including income derived from projected student  
222 enrollments and from community support, and an expense  
223 projection that includes full accounting of the costs of  
224 operation, including start-up costs.

225       3.a. A sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or deny an

226 application no later than 90 calendar days after the application  
227 is received, unless the sponsor and the applicant mutually agree  
228 in writing to temporarily postpone the vote to a specific date,  
229 at which time the sponsor shall by a majority vote approve or  
230 deny the application. If the sponsor fails to act on the  
231 application, an applicant may appeal to the State Board of  
232 Education as provided in paragraph (c). If an application is  
233 denied, the sponsor shall, within 10 calendar days after such  
234 denial, articulate in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
235 good cause, supporting its denial of the application and shall  
236 provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the  
237 applicant and to the Department of Education.

238       b. An application submitted by a high-performing charter  
239 school identified pursuant to s. 1002.331 or a high-performing  
240 charter school system identified pursuant to s. 1002.332 may be  
241 denied by the sponsor only if the sponsor demonstrates by clear  
242 and convincing evidence that:

243           (I) The application of a high-performing charter school  
244 does not materially comply with the requirements in paragraph  
245 (a) or, for a high-performing charter school system, the  
246 application does not materially comply with s. 1002.332(2)(b);

247           (II) The charter school proposed in the application does  
248 not materially comply with the requirements in paragraphs  
249 (9)(a)-(f);

250           (III) The proposed charter school's educational program

251 does not substantially replicate that of the applicant or one of  
252 the applicant's high-performing charter schools;

253       (IV) The applicant has made a material misrepresentation  
254 or false statement or concealed an essential or material fact  
255 during the application process; or

256       (V) The proposed charter school's educational program and  
257 financial management practices do not materially comply with the  
258 requirements of this section.

259  
260 Material noncompliance is a failure to follow requirements or a  
261 violation of prohibitions applicable to charter school  
262 applications, which failure is quantitatively or qualitatively  
263 significant either individually or when aggregated with other  
264 noncompliance. An applicant is considered to be replicating a  
265 high-performing charter school if the proposed school is  
266 substantially similar to at least one of the applicant's high-  
267 performing charter schools and the organization or individuals  
268 involved in the establishment and operation of the proposed  
269 school are significantly involved in the operation of replicated  
270 schools.

271       c. If the sponsor denies an application submitted by a  
272 high-performing charter school or a high-performing charter  
273 school system, the sponsor must, within 10 calendar days after  
274 such denial, state in writing the specific reasons, based upon  
275 the criteria in sub-subparagraph b., supporting its denial of

the application and must provide the letter of denial and supporting documentation to the applicant and to the Department of Education. The applicant may appeal the sponsor's denial of the application in accordance with paragraph (c).

4. For budget projection purposes, the sponsor shall report to the Department of Education the approval or denial of an application within 10 calendar days after such approval or denial. In the event of approval, the report to the Department of Education shall include the final projected FTE for the approved charter school.

5. Upon approval of an application, the initial startup shall commence with the beginning of the public school calendar for the district in which the charter is granted. A charter school may defer the opening of the school's operations for up to 3 years to provide time for adequate facility planning. The charter school must provide written notice of such intent to the sponsor and the parents of enrolled students at least 30 calendar days before the first day of school.

Section 3. Subsections (1), (2), and (4), paragraphs (b), (d), and (h) of subsection (5), paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of subsection (10), and paragraphs (b) and (d) of subsection (11) of section 1002.333, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1002.333 Persistently low-performing schools.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Florida Opportunity Zone" means a population census

tract that has been designated by the United States Department of the Treasury as a Qualified Opportunity Zone pursuant to Internal Revenue Code s. 1400Z-1(b)(1)(B).

~~(b)(a)~~ "Hope operator" means an entity identified by the department pursuant to subsection (2).

~~(c)(b)~~ "Persistently low-performing school" means a school that has earned three ~~consecutive~~ grades lower than a "C," pursuant to s. 1008.34, in at least 3 of the last 5 years, and a school that was closed pursuant to s. 1008.33(4) within 2 years after the submission of a notice of intent.

~~(d)(e)~~ "School of hope" means:

1. A charter school operated by a hope operator which:

a. Serves students from one or more persistently low-performing schools and students who reside in a Florida Opportunity Zone;

b. Is located in a Florida Opportunity Zone or in the attendance zone of a persistently low-performing school or within a 5-mile radius of such school, whichever is greater; and

c. Is a Title I eligible school; or

2. A school operated by a hope operator pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)2. ~~s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.~~

(2) HOPE OPERATOR.—A hope operator is a nonprofit organization with tax exempt status under s. 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that operates three or more charter schools that serve students in grades K-12 in Florida or other

326 states with a record of serving students from low-income  
327 families and is designated by the State Board of Education as a  
328 hope operator based on a determination that:

329       (a) The past performance of the hope operator meets or  
330 exceeds the following criteria:

331           1. The achievement of enrolled students exceeds the  
332 district and state averages of the states in which the  
333 operator's schools operate;

334           2. The average college attendance rate at all schools  
335 currently operated by the operator exceeds 80 percent, if such  
336 data is available;

337           3. The percentage of students eligible for a free or  
338 reduced price lunch under the National School Lunch Act enrolled  
339 at all schools currently operated by the operator exceeds 70  
340 percent;

341           4. The operator is in good standing with the authorizer in  
342 each state in which it operates;

343           5. The audited financial statements of the operator are  
344 free of material misstatements and going concern issues; and

345           6. Other outcome measures as determined by the State Board  
346 of Education;

347       (b) The operator was awarded a United States Department of  
348 Education Charter School Program Grant for Replication and  
349 Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools within the preceding 3  
350 years before applying to be a hope operator;

351 (c) The operator receives funding through the National  
352 Fund of the Charter School Growth Fund to accelerate the growth  
353 of the nation's best charter schools; or

354 (d) The operator is selected by a district school board in  
355 accordance with s. 1008.33.

356  
357 An entity that meets the requirements of paragraph (b),  
358 paragraph (c), or paragraph (d) before the adoption by the state  
359 board of measurable criteria pursuant to paragraph (a) shall be  
360 designated as a hope operator. After the adoption of the  
361 measurable criteria, an entity, including a governing board that  
362 operates a school established pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)(b)3.,  
363 shall be designated as a hope operator if it meets the criteria  
364 of paragraph (a) or paragraph (c).

365 (4) ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHOOLS OF HOPE.—A hope operator  
366 seeking to open a school of hope must submit a notice of intent  
367 to the school district in which a persistently low-performing  
368 school has been identified by the State Board of Education  
369 pursuant to subsection (10) or in which a Florida Opportunity  
370 Zone is located.

371 (a) The notice of intent must include:  
372 1. An academic focus and plan.  
373 2. A financial plan.  
374 3. Goals and objectives for increasing student achievement  
375 for the students from low-income families.

376 4. A completed or planned community outreach plan.

377 5. The organizational history of success in working with  
378 students with similar demographics.

379 6. The grade levels to be served and enrollment  
380 projections.

381 7. The proposed location or geographic area proposed for  
382 the school consistent with the requirements of sub-subparagraphs  
383 (1) (d) 1.a. and b ~~and its proximity to the persistently low-~~  
384 ~~performing school.~~

385 8. A staffing plan.

386 (b) Notwithstanding the requirements of s. 1002.33, a  
387 school district shall enter into a performance-based agreement  
388 with a hope operator to open schools to serve students from  
389 persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a  
390 Florida Opportunity Zone.

391 (5) PERFORMANCE-BASED AGREEMENT.—The following shall  
392 comprise the entirety of the performance-based agreement:

393 (b) The location or geographic area proposed for the  
394 school of hope and its proximity to the persistently low-  
395 performing school, as applicable.

396 (d) A plan of action and specific milestones for student  
397 recruitment and the enrollment of students from persistently  
398 low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida  
399 Opportunity Zone, including enrollment preferences and  
400 procedures for conducting transparent admissions lotteries that



are open to the public. Students from persistently low-performing schools and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone shall be exempt from any enrollment lottery to the extent permitted by federal grant requirements.

(h) A provision allowing the hope operator to open additional schools to serve students enrolled in or zoned for a persistently low-performing school and students residing in a Florida Opportunity Zone if the hope operator maintains its status under subsection (3).

(10) SCHOOLS OF HOPE PROGRAM.—The Schools of Hope Program is created within the Department of Education.

(a) A ~~school of~~ hope operator is eligible to receive funds from the Schools of Hope Program for the following expenditures:

1. Preparing teachers, school leaders, and specialized instructional support personnel, including costs associated with:

a. Providing professional development.

b. Hiring and compensating teachers, school leaders, executive directors, regional directors, and specialized instructional support personnel until the school reaches full enrollment ~~for services beyond the school day and year.~~

2. Acquiring supplies, training, equipment, and educational materials, including developing and acquiring instructional materials.

3. Providing one-time startup costs associated with

426 providing transportation to students to and from the charter  
427 school.

428 4. Carrying out community engagement activities, which may  
429 include paying the cost of student and staff recruitment.

430 5. Providing funds to cover the nonvoted ad valorem  
431 millage that would otherwise be required for schools and the  
432 required local effort funds calculated pursuant to s. 1011.62  
433 when the state board enters into an agreement with a hope  
434 operator pursuant to subsection (5).

435 6. Providing funds for eligible capital outlay  
436 expenditures pursuant to s. 1013.62(4), up to the amount  
437 calculated pursuant to s. 1013.62(2), until the school is  
438 eligible to receive charter school capital outlay pursuant to s.  
439 1013.62(1).

440 7. Providing funds for the initial leasing, and related  
441 costs, of a school facility in the event that a suitable  
442 district-owned facility is unavailable or not leased in a timely  
443 manner pursuant to paragraph (7)(d).

444 (b) A traditional public school that is required to submit  
445 a turnaround plan for implementation pursuant to s. 1008.33(4)  
446 is eligible to receive up to \$500 ~~\$2,000~~ per full-time  
447 equivalent student from the Schools of Hope Program. Awards  
448 shall continue during the implementation of the turnaround plan  
449 and for 1 school year after the school exits turnaround status.  
450 Awards for a traditional public school that is required to

451     submit a subsequent turnaround plan is contingent upon approval  
452     of the turnaround plan by the state board and a subsequent plan  
453     submitted pursuant to this paragraph. Awards shall be based upon  
454     the strength of the school's plan for implementation and its  
455     focus on evidence-based interventions that lead to student  
456     success by providing wrap-around services that leverage  
457     community assets, improve school and community collaboration,  
458     and develop family and community partnerships. Wrap-around  
459     services include, but are not limited to, tutorial and after-  
460     school programs, student counseling, nutrition education,  
461     parental counseling, and adult education. Plans for  
462     implementation may also include models that develop a culture of  
463     attending college, high academic expectations, character  
464     development, dress codes, and an extended school day and school  
465     year. At a minimum, a plan for implementation must:

466             1. Establish wrap-around services that develop family and  
467             community partnerships.

468             2. Establish clearly defined and measurable high academic  
469             and character standards.

470             3. Increase parental involvement and engagement in the  
471             child's education.

472             4. Describe how the school district will identify,  
473             recruit, retain, and reward instructional personnel. The state  
474             board may waive the requirements of s. 1012.22(1)(c)5., and  
475             suspend the requirements of s. 1012.34, to facilitate

476 implementation of the plan.

477 5. Identify a knowledge-rich curriculum that the school  
478 will use that focuses on developing a student's background  
479 knowledge.

480 6. Provide professional development that focuses on  
481 academic rigor, direct instruction, and creating high academic  
482 and character standards.

483 7. Identify public and private funds that will be used to  
484 sustain the plan beyond the grant award and provide assurances  
485 that the grant award will not supplant existing funds provided  
486 to the school.

487 (c) The state board shall:

488 1. Provide awards for up to 75 ~~25~~ schools and prioritize  
489 awards for plans submitted pursuant to paragraph (b) that are  
490 based on whole school transformation, ~~and that are~~ developed in  
491 consultation with the school's principal, and demonstrate that  
492 the plan will continue beyond the term of the award.

493 2. Annually report on the implementation of this  
494 subsection in the report required by s. 1008.345(5), and provide  
495 summarized academic performance reports of each traditional  
496 public school receiving funds.

497 (11) STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AUTHORITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—  
498 Pursuant to Art. IX of the State Constitution, which prescribes  
499 the duty of the State Board of Education to supervise the public  
500 school system, the State Board of Education shall:

501 (b) Adopt a standard notice of intent and performance-  
502 based agreement that must be used by hope operators and district  
503 school boards to eliminate regulatory and bureaucratic barriers  
504 that delay access to high quality schools for students in  
505 persistently low-performing schools and students residing in  
506 Florida Opportunity Zones.

507 (d) Provide students in persistently low-performing  
508 schools and students residing in Florida Opportunity Zones with  
509 a public school that meets accountability standards. The State  
510 Board of Education may enter into a performance-based agreement  
511 with a hope operator when a school district has not improved the  
512 school after 3 years of the interventions and support provided  
513 under s. 1008.33 or has not complied with the requirements of  
514 subsection (4). Upon the State Board of Education entering into  
515 a performance-based agreement with a hope operator, the school  
516 district shall transfer to the school of hope the proportionate  
517 share of state funds allocated from the Florida Education  
518 Finance Program.

519 Section 4. Subsection (5) and paragraph (d) of subsection  
520 (8) of section 1002.40, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

521 1002.40 The Hope Scholarship Program.—

522 (5) TERM OF HOPE SCHOLARSHIP.—For purposes of continuity  
523 of educational choice, a Hope scholarship shall remain in force  
524 until the student returns to public school or graduates from  
525 high school, whichever occurs first. A scholarship student who

526 enrolls in a public school or public school program within the  
527 district is considered to have returned to a public school for  
528 the purpose of determining the end of the scholarship's term. A  
529 scholarship student who enrolls in a public school located  
530 outside of the district in which the incident occurred shall  
531 receive only a scholarship pursuant to paragraph (11)(b).

532 (8) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OBLIGATIONS.—The department  
533 shall:

534 ~~(d) Contract with an independent entity to provide an~~  
535 ~~annual evaluation of the program by:~~

536 ~~1. Reviewing the school bullying prevention education~~  
537 ~~program, climate, and code of student conduct of each public~~  
538 ~~school from which 10 or more students transferred to another~~  
539 ~~public school or private school using the Hope scholarship to~~  
540 ~~determine areas in the school or school district procedures~~  
541 ~~involving reporting, investigating, and communicating a parent's~~  
542 ~~and student's rights that are in need of improvement. At a~~  
543 ~~minimum, the review must include:~~

544 ~~a. An assessment of the investigation time and quality of~~  
545 ~~the response of the school and the school district.~~

546 ~~b. An assessment of the effectiveness of communication~~  
547 ~~procedures with the students involved in an incident, the~~  
548 ~~students' parents, and the school and school district personnel.~~

549 ~~e. An analysis of school incident and discipline data.~~

550 ~~d. The challenges and obstacles relating to implementing~~

551 ~~recommendations from the review.~~

552 ~~2. Reviewing the school bullying prevention education~~  
553 ~~program, climate, and code of student conduct of each public~~  
554 ~~school to which a student transferred if the student was from a~~  
555 ~~school identified in subparagraph 1. in order to identify best~~  
556 ~~practices and make recommendations to a public school at which~~  
557 ~~the incidents occurred.~~

558 ~~3. Reviewing the performance of participating students~~  
559 ~~enrolled in a private school in which at least 51 percent of the~~  
560 ~~total enrolled students in the prior school year participated in~~  
561 ~~the program and in which there are at least 10 participating~~  
562 ~~students who have scores for tests administered.~~

563 ~~4. Surveying the parents of participating students to~~  
564 ~~determine academic, safety, and school climate satisfaction and~~  
565 ~~to identify any challenges to or obstacles in addressing the~~  
566 ~~incident or relating to the use of the scholarship.~~

567 Section 5. Paragraph (m) of subsection (1) of section  
568 1002.421, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

569 1002.421 State school choice scholarship program  
570 accountability and oversight.—

571 (1) PRIVATE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY AND OBLIGATIONS.—A private  
572 school participating in an educational scholarship program  
573 established pursuant to this chapter must be a private school as  
574 defined in s. 1002.01(2) in this state, be registered, and be in  
575 compliance with all requirements of this section in addition to

private school requirements outlined in s. 1002.42, specific requirements identified within respective scholarship program laws, and other provisions of Florida law that apply to private schools, and must:

(m) Require each employee and contracted personnel with direct student contact, upon employment or engagement to provide services, to undergo a state and national background screening, pursuant to s. 943.0542, by electronically filing with the Department of Law Enforcement a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement agency or an employee of the private school, a school district, or a private company who is trained to take fingerprints and deny employment to or terminate an employee if he or she fails to meet the screening standards under s. 435.04. Results of the screening shall be provided to the participating private school. For purposes of this paragraph:

1. An "employee or contracted personnel with direct student contact" means any employee or contracted personnel who has unsupervised access to a scholarship student for whom the private school is responsible.

2. The costs of fingerprinting and the background check shall not be borne by the state.

3. Continued employment of an employee or contracted personnel after notification that he or she has failed the background screening under this paragraph shall cause a private



601 school to be ineligible for participation in a scholarship  
602 program.

603 ~~4. An employee or contracted personnel holding a valid~~  
604 ~~Florida teaching certificate who has been fingerprinted pursuant~~  
605 ~~to s. 1012.32 is not required to comply with the provisions of~~  
606 ~~this paragraph.~~

607 4.5. All fingerprints submitted to the Department of Law  
608 Enforcement as required by this section shall be retained by the  
609 Department of Law Enforcement in a manner provided by rule and  
610 entered in the statewide automated biometric identification  
611 system authorized by s. 943.05(2)(b). Such fingerprints shall  
612 thereafter be available for all purposes and uses authorized for  
613 arrest fingerprints entered in the statewide automated biometric  
614 identification system pursuant to s. 943.051.

615 5.6. The Department of Law Enforcement shall search all  
616 arrest fingerprints received under s. 943.051 against the  
617 fingerprints retained in the statewide automated biometric  
618 identification system under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph 5.~~ Any  
619 arrest record that is identified with the retained fingerprints  
620 of a person subject to the background screening under this  
621 section shall be reported to the employing school with which the  
622 person is affiliated. Each private school participating in a  
623 scholarship program is required to participate in this search  
624 process by informing the Department of Law Enforcement of any  
625 change in the employment or contractual status of its personnel

626 whose fingerprints are retained under subparagraph 4.

627 ~~subparagraph 5.~~ The Department of Law Enforcement shall adopt a  
628 rule setting the amount of the annual fee to be imposed upon  
629 each private school for performing these searches and  
630 establishing the procedures for the retention of private school  
631 employee and contracted personnel fingerprints and the  
632 dissemination of search results. The fee may be borne by the  
633 private school or the person fingerprinted.

634 6.7. Employees and contracted personnel whose fingerprints  
635 are not retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under  
636 subparagraphs 4. and 5. ~~subparagraphs 5. and 6.~~ are required to  
637 be refingerprinted and must meet state and national background  
638 screening requirements upon reemployment or reengagement to  
639 provide services in order to comply with the requirements of  
640 this section.

641 7.8. Every 5 years following employment or engagement to  
642 provide services with a private school, employees or contracted  
643 personnel required to be screened under this section must meet  
644 screening standards under s. 435.04, at which time the private  
645 school shall request the Department of Law Enforcement to  
646 forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation  
647 for national processing. If the fingerprints of employees or  
648 contracted personnel are not retained by the Department of Law  
649 Enforcement under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph 5.~~, employees and  
650 contracted personnel must electronically file a complete set of

fingerprints with the Department of Law Enforcement. Upon submission of fingerprints for this purpose, the private school shall request that the Department of Law Enforcement forward the fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for national processing, and the fingerprints shall be retained by the Department of Law Enforcement under subparagraph 4. ~~subparagraph 5.~~

The department shall suspend the payment of funds to a private school that knowingly fails to comply with this subsection, and shall prohibit the school from enrolling new scholarship students, for 1 fiscal year and until the school complies. If a private school fails to meet the requirements of this subsection or has consecutive years of material exceptions listed in the report required under paragraph (q), the commissioner may determine that the private school is ineligible to participate in a scholarship program.

Section 6. Section 1004.6499, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1004.6499 The Center for Community Schools.—

(1) PURPOSE.—The Center for Community Schools at the University of Central Florida provides technical assistance, university-assisted partnerships, training, assessment, and evaluation for the establishment and implementation of community school models.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—

676        (a) "Center" means the Center for Community Schools at the  
677        University of Central Florida.

678        (b) "Community organization" means a nonprofit  
679        organization that has been in existence for at least 3 years and  
680        serves individuals within a county in which a public school  
681        implementing the community school model is located. The  
682        community organization serves as the lead partner in the  
683        community school model and facilitates the use of grant funds  
684        under this section.

685        (c) "Community school model" means a school service model  
686        developed by the center that utilizes a long-term partnership  
687        among a school district, a community organization, a college or  
688        university, and a healthcare provider to establish, develop, and  
689        sustain a system for addressing student, family, and community  
690        needs during and outside of the school day. The model must  
691        establish a collaborative governance structure among the  
692        community partners for providing services and include standards  
693        for effective implementation, reporting, and evaluation at each  
694        participating school. The governance structure may include other  
695        community leaders such as parent-teacher organizations,  
696        community businesses, and faith leaders. The model must also  
697        provide for family engagement and expanded learning  
698        opportunities and support for students.

699        (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—Contingent upon available funds, the  
700        center may facilitate the implementation of its community school

701 model in the state through grants that enable community  
702 organizations to establish long-term partnerships and secure  
703 resources for planning, staffing, and providing services to  
704 students and families through the community school model. The  
705 center shall:

706 (a) Require a participating public school to establish  
707 long-term partnerships through a memorandum of understanding and  
708 condition the award of grant funds upon the community  
709 organization securing matching funds.

710 (b) Prioritize awards based on demonstration of the  
711 technical and financial ability to sustain the community school  
712 model beyond an initial grant award and in school districts  
713 where the community school model has not been established.

714 (4) REPORTING.—The center shall publish on its website  
715 information on each community organization receiving a grant  
716 from the center to implement the community school model,  
717 including:

718 (a) The amount of grant funds provided through the center  
719 for each participating school and the amount of matching funds  
720 provided by the community organization for each year the  
721 community organization has received a grant for that school.

722 (b) The long-term partners who have entered into a  
723 memorandum of understanding for implementing the community  
724 school model pursuant to paragraph (2)(c).

725 (c) A description of the services and community engagement

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726 activities provided through the community school model.

727 (d) The number of students, families, and community  
728 members served through the community school model.

729 (e) The academic progress of students enrolled at the  
730 public school, including student progression data, attendance,  
731 behavior, and student achievement and learning gains on  
732 statewide, standardized assessments as determined pursuant to s.  
733 1008.34.

734 Section 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2019.